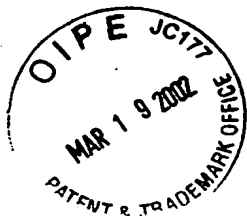


D. Hawone
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500.37156X00



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Hiroyuki KURIYAMA, ET AL

Serial No.: 09/284,862

Filed: April 22, 1999

For: BIOCHEMICAL ANALYZER

Group: P. Bex

Examiner: 1743

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SUPPLEMENTAL REMARKS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2002

Sir:

As a supplemental to the Second Amendment after Final Rejection filed on March 18, 2002, applicants have the following additional remarks to supplement the previous remarks.

As indicated in the Second Amendment after Final Rejection, Wakatake, JP 62-1603 and Okamoto do not teach or suggest all the features of amended independent claims 1, 6 and 12. That is, the Office Action agrees that Wakatake does not disclose the use of identification

means and patterns on the front of the modular units. The remarks also asserts that JP 62-1603 does not suggest the at least two analyzing parts having different functions and function identification parts and wherein the analyzing parts have front surfaces and the identification parts are projected from the front surface of the analyzing parts as recited in the independent claims. The remarks also states that the Patent Office has not provided any cited reference showing the claimed combination which include that the identification parts have colors different from each other.

For the Examiner's convenience, the amendments to independent claims 1, 6 and 12 are based on previous dependent claims 9 and 11. Additional support for these features may be found at least on page 11, line 21-page 12, line 26 and page 17, lines 1-20 of the present specification.

As discussed in the present specification, the widthwise dimensions of the specimen introducing part 1, the analyzing parts A3, A4 having different functions, and the specimen storage part 6 which are normalized by the length of the specimen rack conveyed by the specimen rack conveying part, and function identification parts 9a, 9b which are incorporated to the analyzing parts, being projected from the

front surfaces of the other function parts provided along the conveying parts, or being applied with different colors in order to distinguish the analyzing parts from each other. Accordingly, it is possible to provide a properly arranged, safe and clean environment in a test room with a high degree of reliability. Thus, an apparatus may be provided that can be easily manipulated by the user.

Since the dimensions of the function parts are normalized, the function parts in their use condition can restrain occurrence of visual noise, but the respective functional parts can hardly be identified from each other at a glance, possibly causing the use to perform useless motion. Thus, the functional identification parts are provided to allow the operator to readily distinguish one functional part from other functional parts since the functional identifying parts are projected from the surfaces of the other function parts or have different colors.

Accordingly, in addition to the reasons set forth in the March 18, 2002 Amendment, it is submitted that the cited prior art does not teach or suggest all the features of independent claims 1, 6 and 12. That is, the cited references do not teach or suggest the respective arrangement and wherein the analyzing parts have front surfaces and the identification parts are projected from the front surfaces and wherein the identification

parts have colors different from each other. Each of claims 3, 5, 7, 10 and 13-17 depend from one of the independent claims and therefore also defines patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejection is respectfully requested.

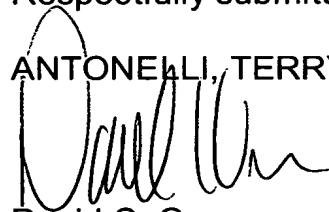
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 5-7, 10 and 12-17 are respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (500.37156X00).

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David C. Oren', is written over the printed name.

David C. Oren
Registration No. 38,694

DCO/dbp
(703) 312-6600